

## What matters most for Family and School Collaboration?

This spring, the Washington State legislature asked our office (The Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds) to research and recommend a model for how schools can best work with families and communities. Also, under the new law known as the "Every Student Succeeds Act" or "ESSA," the US Department of Education is requiring each state to make a plan to support family and school partnerships. Washington State is working on its plan now.

**We want to hear from you** about what matters most to you as a parent or family member when schools reach out to you to work together. We will use this information when we make our recommendations to the state for a model. We will also share this with the leaders who are working on the state plan for family engagement under ESSA.

**Your input will help shape what collaboration looks like in Washington.**

We have listed below some of the values from different national models for school and family engagement.

1. Please **read the list**. **Circle yes or no** to indicate which values you think are important. Think about whether any values are missing. If you feel a value is missing, you can add it in the blank space at the end of this survey. You can circle as many values as you like.
2. Next, please **select your TOP FIVE most important**, and **number them #1-5**. If you do not see your top 5 in this list, please add them in the extra spaces at the end. **We have also left space for you to write next to each value what it means to you in your words.** *Thank you!*

Value: Each statement begins with: <i>Schools should...</i>	Is this value important to you?	Rank your TOP 5, with #1 being your most important to #5 being the least important	What this value means to you in your own words:
1. Share responsibility with families for helping students succeed.	Yes / No		
2. Make sure that any rules or policies serve <u>every</u> family.	Yes / No		
3. Reach out to families across all grade levels, from preschool through graduation.	Yes / No		
4. Help families understand how supporting their students changes as students age and mature.	Yes / No		
5. Respect that families define themselves, their roles, and values in different ways.	Yes / No		
6. Help families understand and be confident about how schools and processes work.	Yes / No		

# SURVEY OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUES (FALL 2016)

Values, continued.	Important? Yes / No	Order of Importance	What this value means to you:
7. Work with community partners, such as nonprofits, businesses, and government to reach out to families.	Yes / No		
8. Ask for families and communities' help in making schools better.	Yes / No		
9. Provide classes to families that help them with things like assisting students with homework or navigating online grades and reports.	Yes / No		
10. Build a welcoming and culturally responsive school climate.	Yes / No		
11. Create opportunities for families to be leaders in the school for decision-making.	Yes / No		
12. Work to build authentic relationships between families and educators.	Yes / No		
13. See and treat families as experts and value their stories and their ideas for solving problems.	Yes / No		
14. Help teachers understand that they are learning, too, and need families' feedback.	Yes / No		
15. Identify who has power and who does not and make sure that every family and community has equal voice and power.	Yes / No		
16. Encourage families to set goals for schools and students rather than having schools decide what is best.	Yes / No		
17. Offer parenting skill classes or support groups.	Yes / No		
18. Prioritize training for teachers and leaders that helps them understand families better.	Yes / No		

# SURVEY OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUES (FALL 2016)

Values, continued.	Important? Yes / No	Order of Importance	What this value means to you:
19. Make sure that there is effective two-way communication (school to family; family to school) about what is happening at the school and with students.	Yes / No		
20. Work with families to create meaningful, flexible volunteer opportunities for families.	Yes / No		
21. Assist families in supporting learning at home, through homework or other activities.	Yes / No		
22. Respect and honor families as important decision-makers for their students.	Yes / No		
23. Coordinate community resources and services that can help families and students.	Yes / No		
24. Support community-based efforts and groups because school is an extension of the community.	Yes / No		
25. Provide easy-to-understand information to families in the language(s) they speak at home and make outreach in those languages a priority within the school and district.	Yes / No		
26. Respect and honor racial, ethnic, cultural, language, ability, belief, or other identities in working with families and students.	Yes / No		
Other Values (Write your own)	Important? Yes / No	Order of Importance	What this value means to you:

## SURVEY OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUES (FALL 2016)


Other comments:

Please contact the Office of the Education Ombuds, at 1-866-297-2597 or [oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov](mailto:oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov) if you have any questions about this work. Thank you for your help!